Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a cooling tower, comprising feeding to said cooling tower a make-up stream of water containing organic and/or biological contaminants, causing a side stream taken from a recirculating stream to pass through an electrolytic cell that performs oxidation/reduction reactions using DC electrical current for decomposing water and generating chlorine, removing solids precipitated by the action of said cell, and remixing said treated side stream with the main stream, before feeding them to said cooling tower, further comprising adding a non-oxidizing biocide to the re-circulating stream as an aid in the prevention of biofouling.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the biocide is added when the Redox potential decreases to a value of about 200 mV or less.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the biocide is selected from among phenolic biocides, quaternary amines, triazolin, DBNPA (dibromonitrilproprionamide), MIT (methyl izothiazolinone) or MBT.

8 - 14 (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a cooling tower, comprising feeding to said cooling tower a make-up stream of water containing organic and/or biological contaminants, causing a side stream taken from the recirculating stream to pass through an electrolytic cell which performs oxidation/reduction reactions using DC electrical current for decomposing water and generating chlorine, removing solids precipitating by the action of said cell, and remixing said treated side stream with the main stream, before feeding them to the

cooling tower and further comprising adding a non-oxidizing biocide to the re-circulating stream as an aid in the prevention of biofouling.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the biocide is added when the Redox potential decreases to a value of about 200 mV or less.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the biocide is selected from among phenolic biocides, quaternary amines, triazolin, DBNPA (dibromonitrilproprionamide), MIT (methyl izothiazolinone) or MBT.